## **SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS**

Exhibit No.\_\_\_

Date

Amendments to House Bill No. 819Bill No. Committee Study Bill

3-31-07 Op 48819 AFF

Requested by Senator Carol Williams

For the Senate Finance and Claims Committee

Prepared by PAT GERVAIS March 27, 2007 (4:16pm)

1. Page A-1.

Following: line 6

Insert: "b. Self-Help Law Program (Restricted) 505,000 505,000" [general fund FY08 and FY09]

2. Page A-1.

Following: line 23

Insert: "Funds in Self-Help Law Program may be used only to provide and support the development, maintenance, and availability of self-help legal forms and instructions regarding civil legal proceedings in Montana's courts; the development of curriculum and materials suitable for classes and clinics about civil legal proceedings and forms; the development, updating, and provision of information and training materials for judges, clerks of court, other court officers, judicial branch employees, and volunteers about self-help legal resources and how to assist self-represented litigants in a manner that is impartial, facilitates effective and efficient court operations, and does not constitute providing direct legal representation; the establishment and maintenance of multimedia materials that provide information about Montana's civil laws, courts, rules, legal forms and available legal resources; coordination, recruitment and training of volunteer attorneys to provide legal advice and direct legal representation to persons with civil legal needs who are unable to pay for those services; and coordination and cooperation with other access to justice efforts."

> - END -305.000 oto

Explanation - This amendment provides \$1,010,000 general fund for the biennium (\$505,000 a year) to support a self-help law program. This funding is added to the Supreme Court Operations Program within the judicial branch.